

CA Education Lab CSAC Partnership Projects

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Update on Current Research Projects

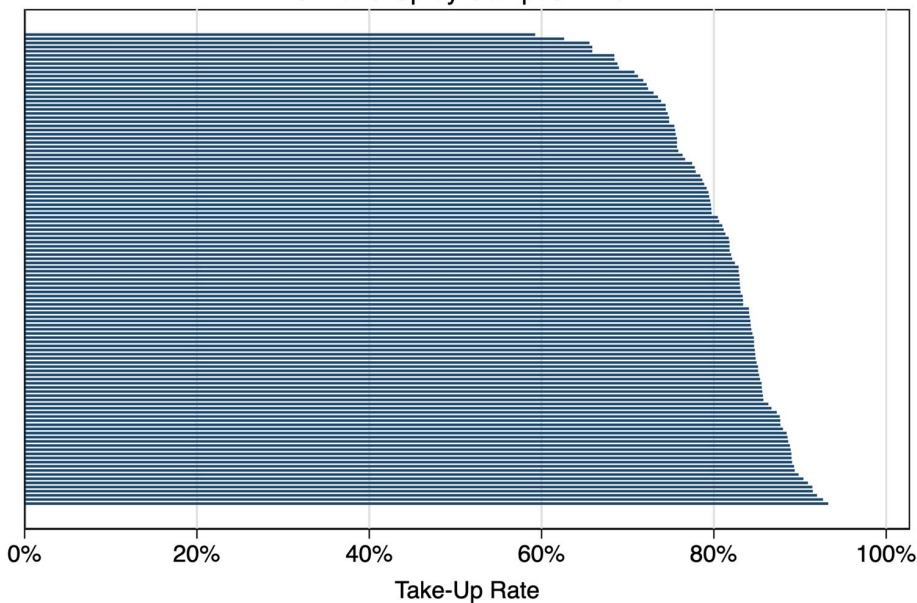
- Examining key differences in aid receipt across CCC campuses
- Insights from interviews with financial aid directors
- Findings from joint CSAC-CA Ed Lab survey of Class of 2023
- Update on Cal Grant Entitlement analysis

CCC Financial Aid Programs

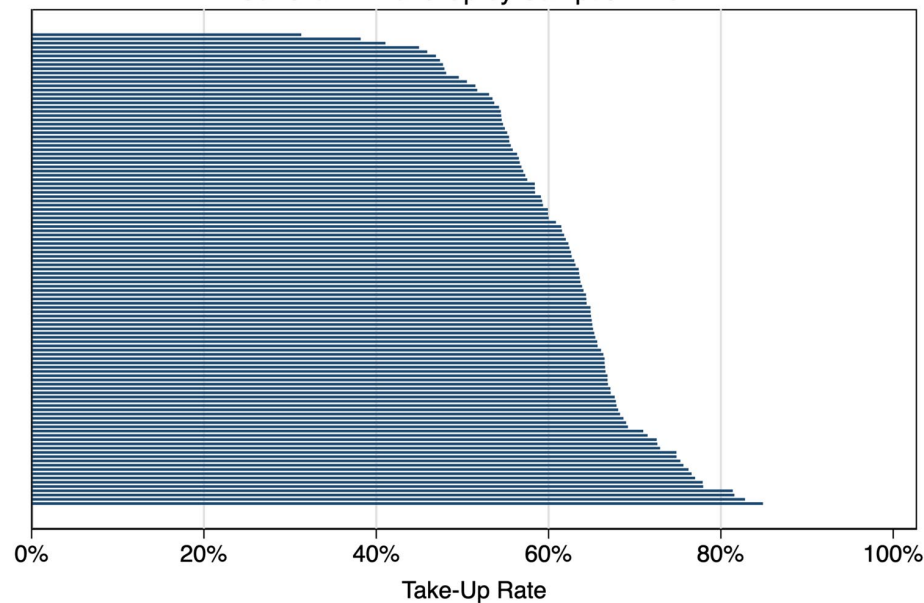
Aid Program	Award Amount	Application Method	Maximum Eligibility
California Promise College Grant	Fee remission (current level \$46/unit)	Standalone application, General Assistance Receipt, FAFSA/CADAA, other special criteria	None
Pell Grant	\$7395	FAFSA	12 semesters
Cal Grant B	\$1648	FAFSA/CADAA, GPA form	8 semesters
Student Success Completion Grant	\$8000	Receive Cal Grant B and enroll full time	8 semesters (of Cal Grant B eligibility)

Big Differences in take-up by CCC across all aid types

Pell Take-Up by Campus in 2021

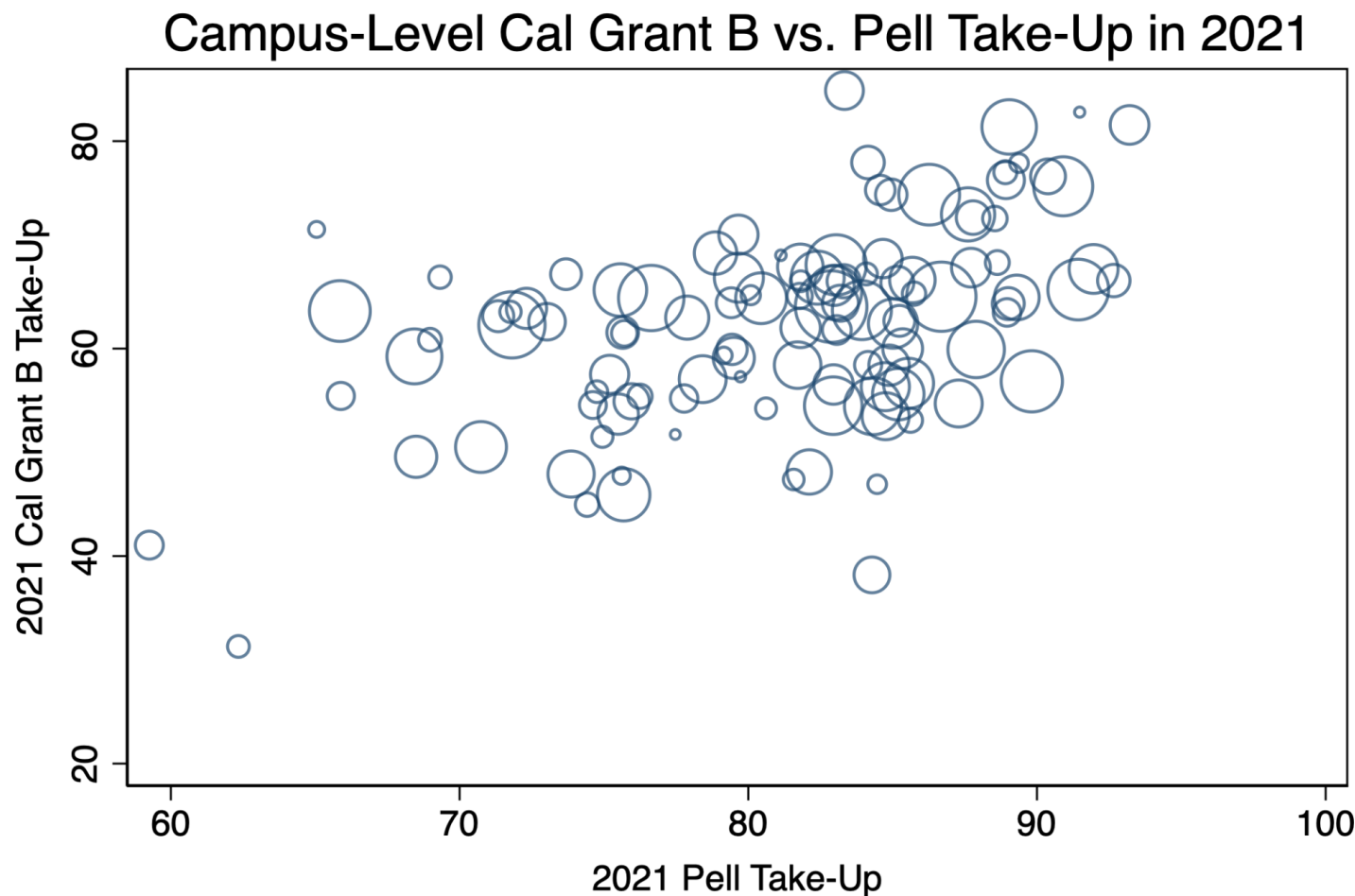


Cal Grant B Take-Up by Campus in 2021



NOTE: Take-up is defined as aid receipt among students eligible for each grant

Strong relationship between programs



Notes: Correlation between Cal Grant B and Pell Grant take-up is 0.49 in 2021. These rates are estimated for students who appear to meet all eligibility criteria for each award, respectively.

Key takeaway: Campuses matter

Fall 2022 CCC Director Interviews

In Fall 2022, we interviewed financial aid directors and deans at 8 CCCs

Asked questions about financial aid process, HEERF fund allocation and the Student Success Completion Grant

Financial aid processes varied widely across campus including:

- Systems: Colleague, Banner, CampusLogic, Bank Mobile
- Out-reach/In-reach
- Disbursement dates

Initial Takeaways for Best Practices

Some initial best practices and areas to streamline:

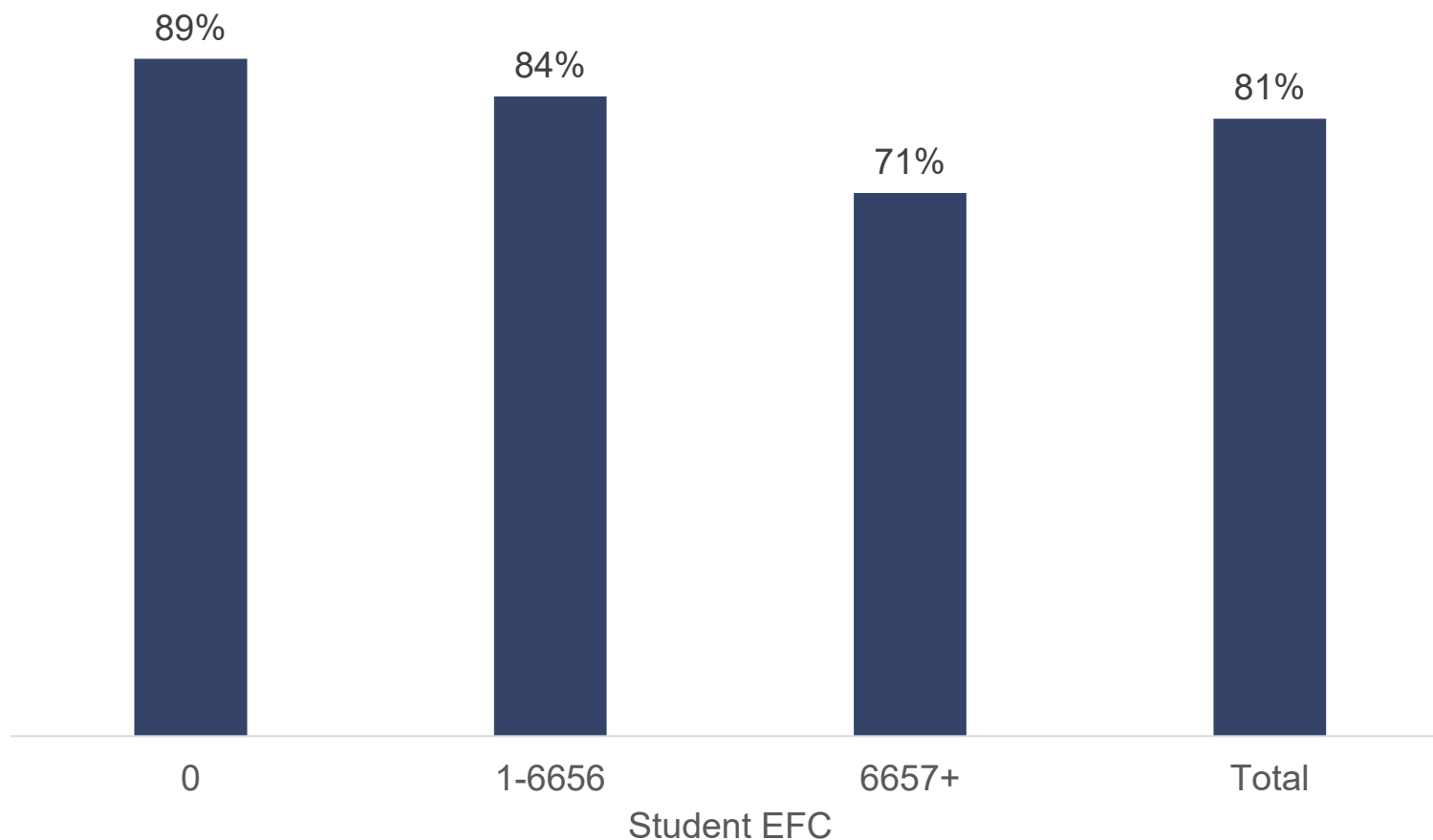
- Identifying enrolled students who don't list CCC on FAFSA
 - Campuses request a full roster from CSAC to see all students' eligibility, regardless of listing college
- Show award letter amounts by enrollment status
 - Exact amounts for half-time, $\frac{3}{4}$ time, full-time
- Automate processes to the extent possible
- Adjust disbursement dates
- Streamline CADAA process

How are students navigating
this process?

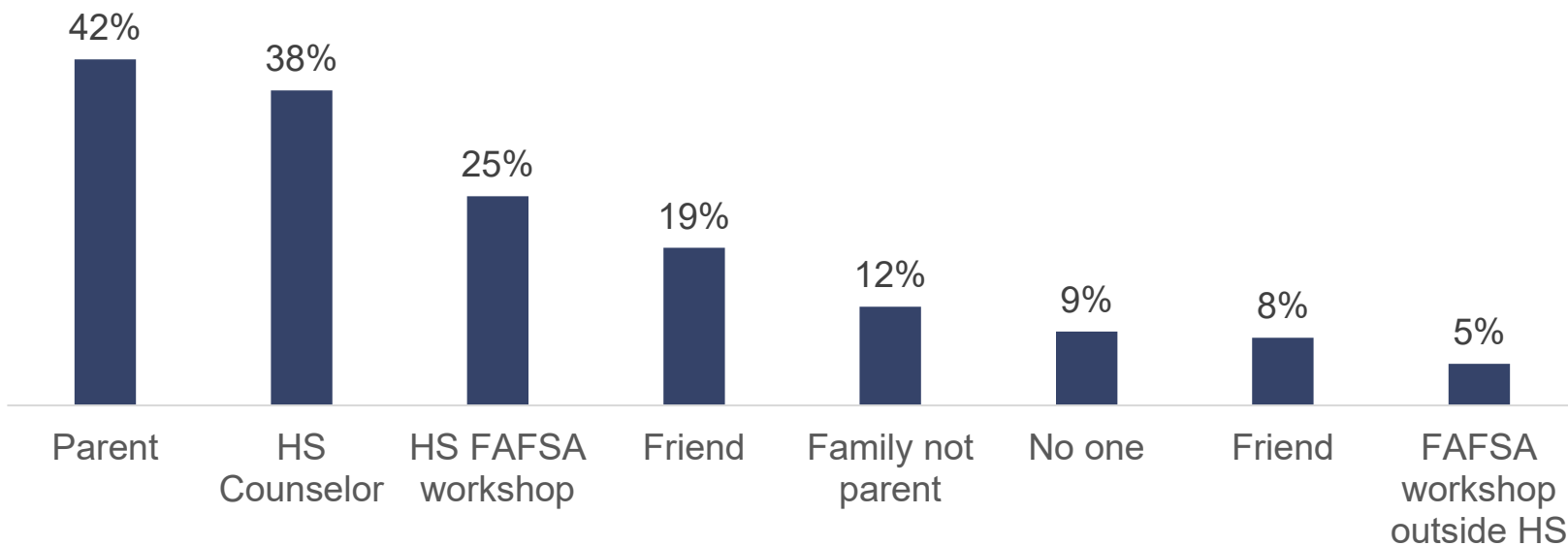
Spring 2023 Student Survey

- Sent to all CA high school seniors who submitted a FAFSA/CADAA for the 23-24 academic year
 - $11,431 / 325,500 = 3.5\%$ response rate
- Students' high school experiences, college plans, experiences with financial aid process and demographics
- Big takeaways: Students are by and large aware of the FAFSA/CADAA requirement; report a variety of sources of information and support for submitting (with some differences by subgroups); significant worries about college affordability

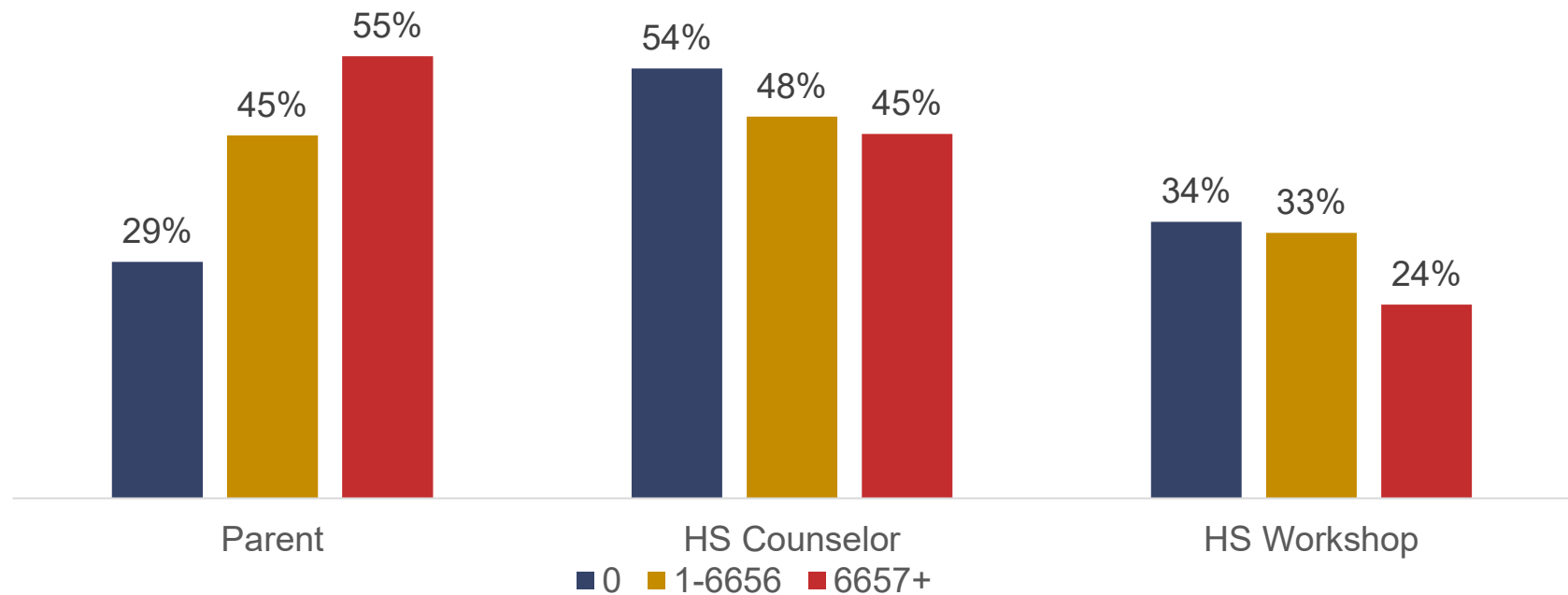
Did your high school require the FAFSA/CADAA?



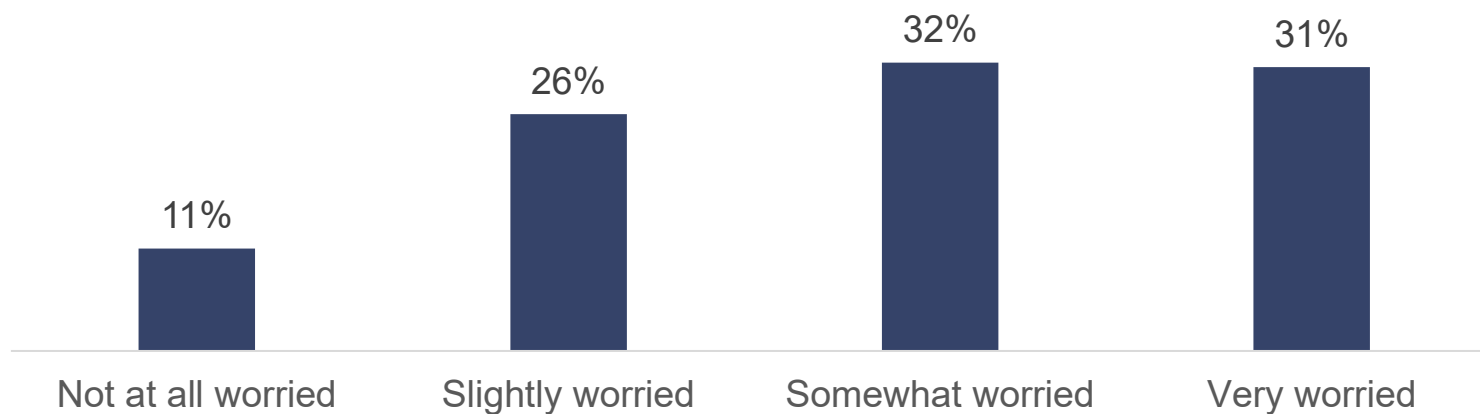
Who helped you complete the FAFSA/CADAA?



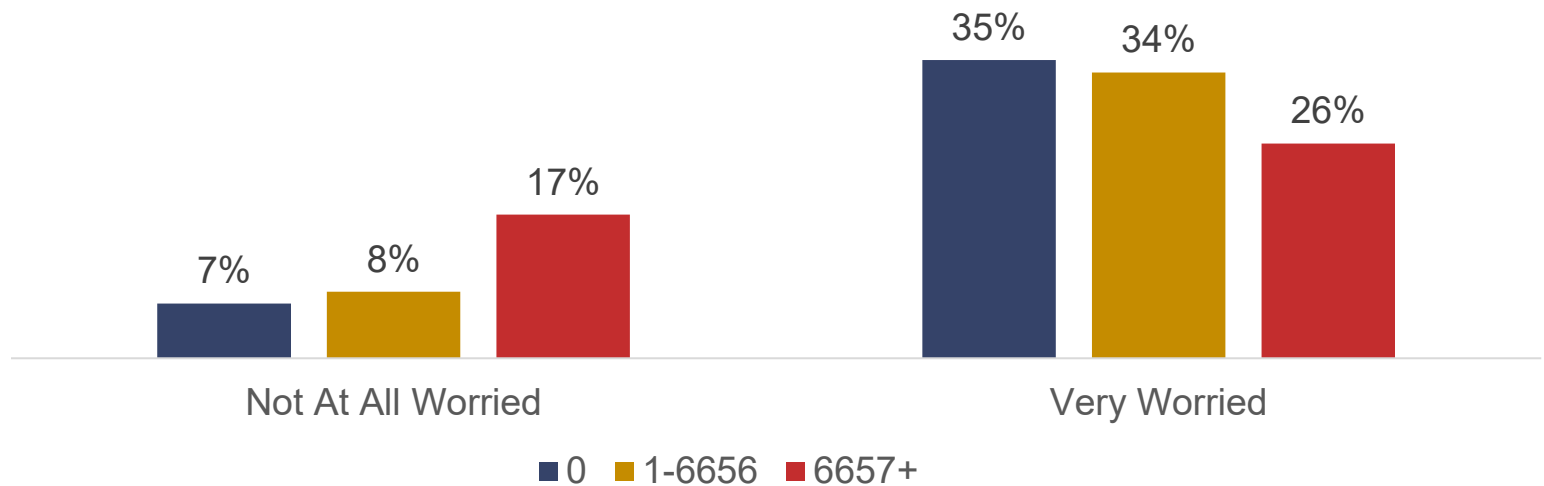
FAFSA/CADAA support by EFC



How worried are you about paying tuition/fees?



Worry about tuition/fees by EFC



Student Voice

"I'm worried about the financial challenges I'll face. I'll need to think about food, working, and managing my time and money. It's a lot. I'll be overwhelmed at first and won't be sure about anything. I'll need to worry about multiple things, not just my education or grades."

"I believe that I will struggle financially in college because being a DREAMer limits me from so many opportunities and I am not quite sure if I will be receiving financial aid for college. "

"The biggest challenge in college would be everything financial. Worrying if I have money to buy food or pay rents for supplies scares me. I am not wealthy nor are my parents so I have to rely on working and scholarships"

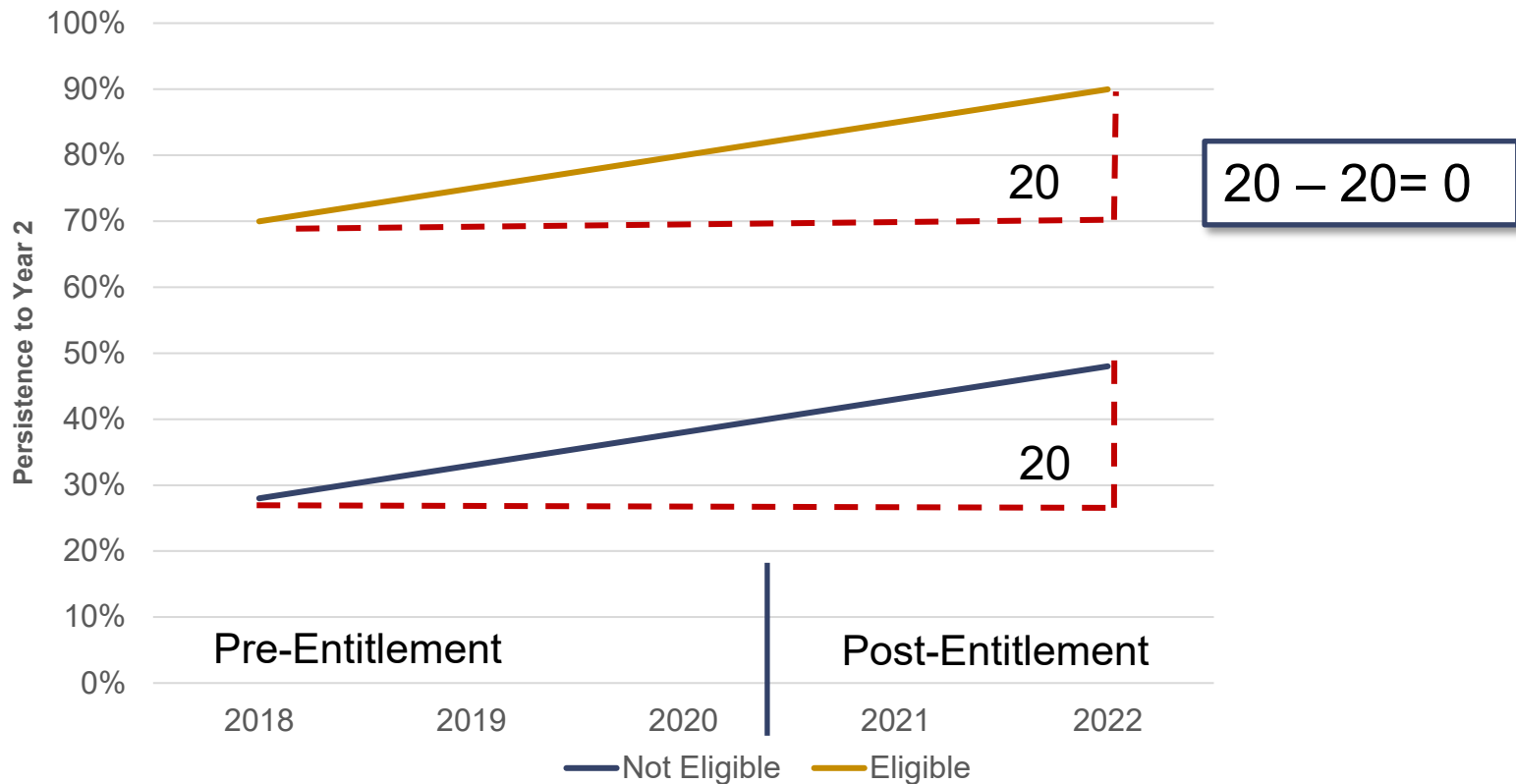
CCC Entitlement Award

CCC Entitlement Award

- Historically, CCC students were potentially eligible for two Cal Grant B awards:
 - High School Entitlement Award
 - Competitive Award
- Beginning in 2021-22, the Cal Grant Competitive Award was converted into an Entitlement Grant for CCC students
 - Removing the cap on awards
- Our analysis will compare Cal Grant B eligible and ineligible students before and after the policy change using a difference-in-differences method
 - CCC outcomes: financial aid receipt, unit accumulation and persistence

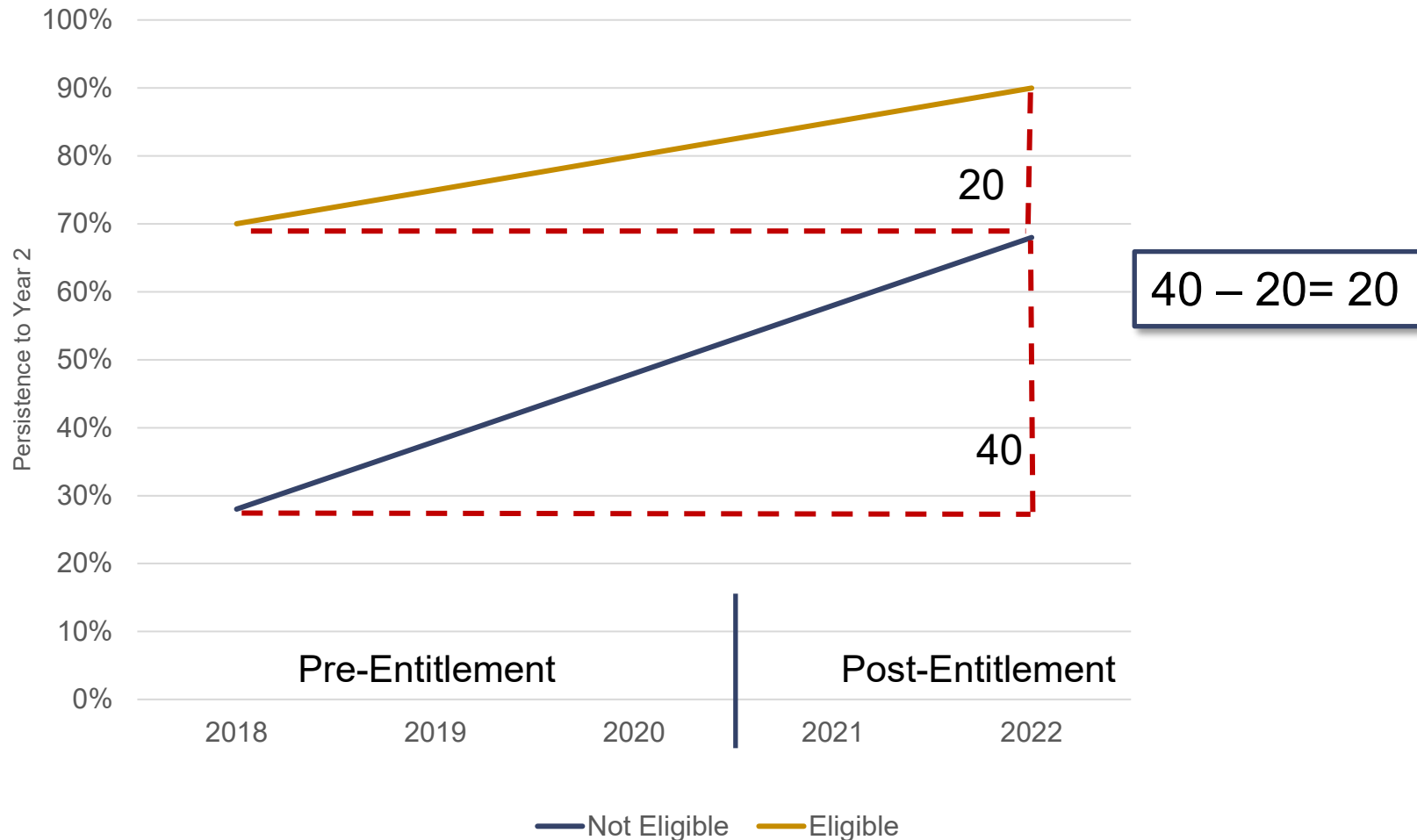
What if the new Entitlement Award had no impact on achievement?

Hypothetical Pre-Expansion to Post-Expansion differences in Persistence



What if the Entitlement Award did improve achievement and persistence?

Hypothetical Pre-Expansion to Post-Expansion differences in Persistence



Next Steps

- Research reports on the 2023 student survey
- Student interviews about how they experience the financial aid process
- Fall 2024 student survey
- CCC Projects
 - HS Entitlement Award and SSCG analysis out in Spring 2024
 - Wheelhouse Report on CCC Financial Aid